

former superintendent Lyle Schwartz, board secretary Carol Hanson, and elementary school principal Sara Pralle.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Dows Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

GLENWOOD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Glenwood Community School District and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire-safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Glenwood Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$871,000 which it used to help install a new HVAC system at the High School. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the

kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received a fire safety grant totaling \$36,048. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Glenwood Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education, Bill Agan, David Warren, Frank Overhue, Theresa Romens, and Linda Young, and former members, Nancy Krogstad, Paul Speck, and Marland Gammon. I would also like to recognize director of operations Dave Greenwood and former school improvement coordinator Kerry Newman and current superintendant Dr. Stan Sibley.

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MOC-FLOYD VALLEY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal

name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District received two Harkin fire safety grants totaling \$140,380 which it used to install new wiring, emergency lighting and doors at Hosper Elementary School and at the high school and to install fire detection systems and fire doors as well as perform electrical work at four other schools. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Gerald VanRoekel, Patty Thayer, Deb DeHaan, Shane Jager, Dan Duistermars and former board members Ed Grotenhuis and Harry VanderPol. Superintendent Gary Richardson and former superintendent Les Douma and buildings and grounds director Jim VanOmmeren should also be commended for their work on the grant application and implementation.

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